



Arizona
Department
of Housing

2015 Narrative Sheltered & Unsheltered Count

Revision Date: July 1, 2015

Date Issued: June, 2015

1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310 | Phoenix, AZ 85007

Telephone: (602) 771-1000 | Facsimile: (602) 771-1002 | TTY: (602) 771-1001



Arizona Department of Housing
2015 Unsheltered and Sheltered Count Data
Balance of State Continuum of Care

OVERVIEW: The Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) is the Lead Agency for Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCO). The U. S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) requires that communities that provide services to persons who are experiencing homelessness and receive HUD funding for housing projects must convene a continuum of care. The BOSCO has many responsibilities including:

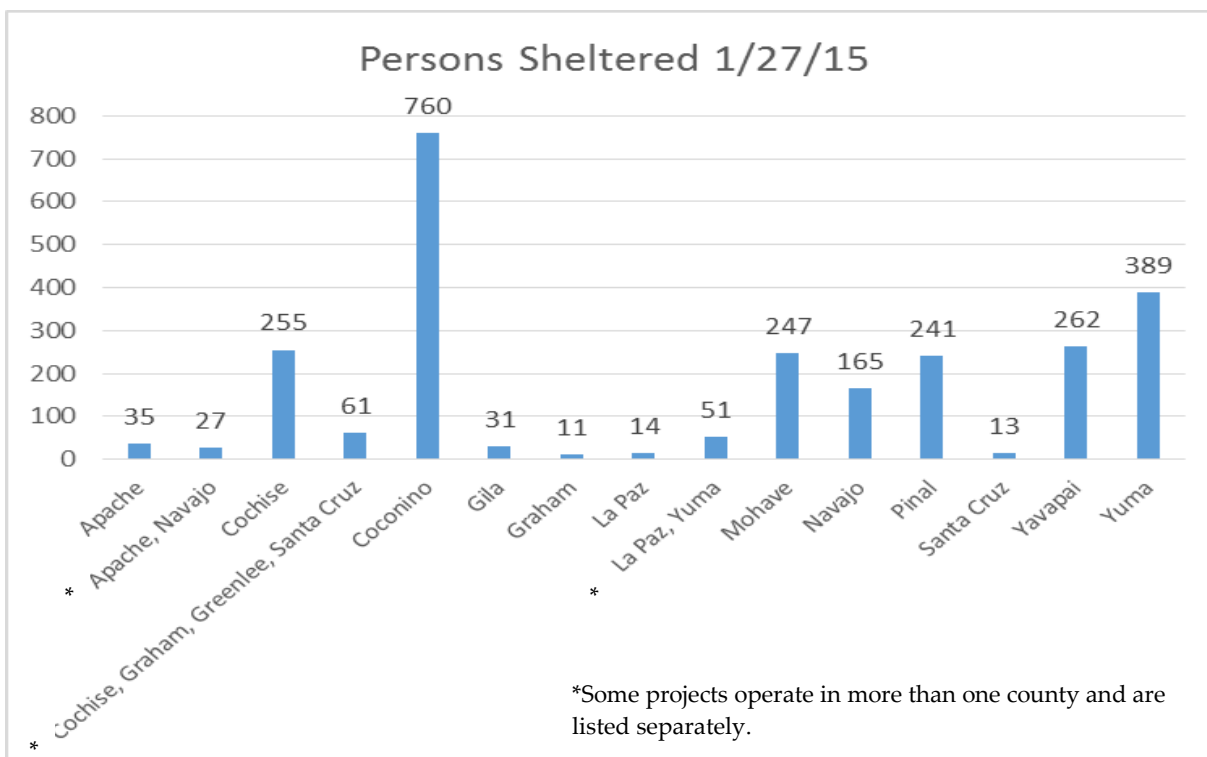
- **Planning and implementing** services for persons who are experiencing homelessness in thirteen counties in Arizona including Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai and Yuma.
- Through the Arizona Department of Housing as fiscal agent, the BOSCO **makes permanent supportive housing, transitional housing and rapid re-housing services available** to persons who are experiencing homelessness in the counties identified above.
- **The Yearly Sheltered Count** – As required by HUD, the number of persons who are in emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing must be counted in a single point of time count that takes place annually during the last week in January. This count includes agencies that receive HUD funding as well as those that do not. Most agencies enter data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Some agencies, such as domestic violence programs do not participate in HMIS. In those cases ADOH requests information for the count from those individual agencies. HUD considers only those in emergency shelter and transitional housing as “homeless”. Those in permanent housing are counted to give an overall picture of persons housed by homeless service providers, but are not considered in the official homeless count.
- **The Unsheltered Count** – In addition to the sheltered count, HUD also requires continuums of care to count persons who are unsheltered, also on a point in time date during the last week of January every other year. ADOH provides coordination for this effort statewide, but local coordinators and volunteers in communities throughout the BOSCO complete the count. In 2013 the BOSCO decided to conduct unsheltered counts in the summer in those years when the HUD required count does not take place. The purpose of the counts at different times of the year is to assess how individuals move throughout the state based on the changes in weather.

2015 SHELTERED and UNSHELTERED COUNT

The following provides a summary of statewide data. See the full data report for additional information.

Sheltered Count – Persons staying in emergency shelter including domestic violence shelters or living in housing provided by a transitional housing or permanent supportive housing program are included in this report. **It is important to note however, that HUD defines the sheltered homeless count as including only those persons in emergency shelter and transitional housing since persons in permanent housing are no longer experiencing homelessness.** Persons are counted regardless of whether the program received funding from HUD or not. If agencies enter data in HMIS, that data is used in the count. If agencies do not participate in HMIS, ADOH requests those organizations to complete a brief survey. Information was collected for persons who were sheltered in one of these programs on the evening of January 27, 2015. The highlights of the count are as follows:

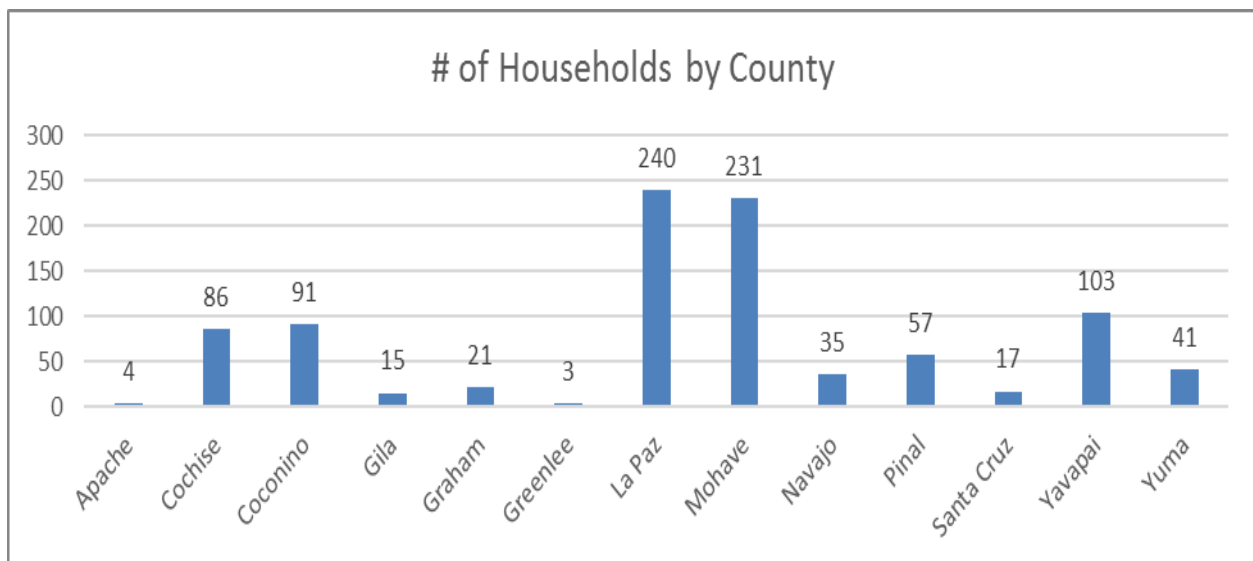
- 112 projects are represented in the count. The chart that follows illustrates persons housed across all types of project by county on the night of January 27, 2015:



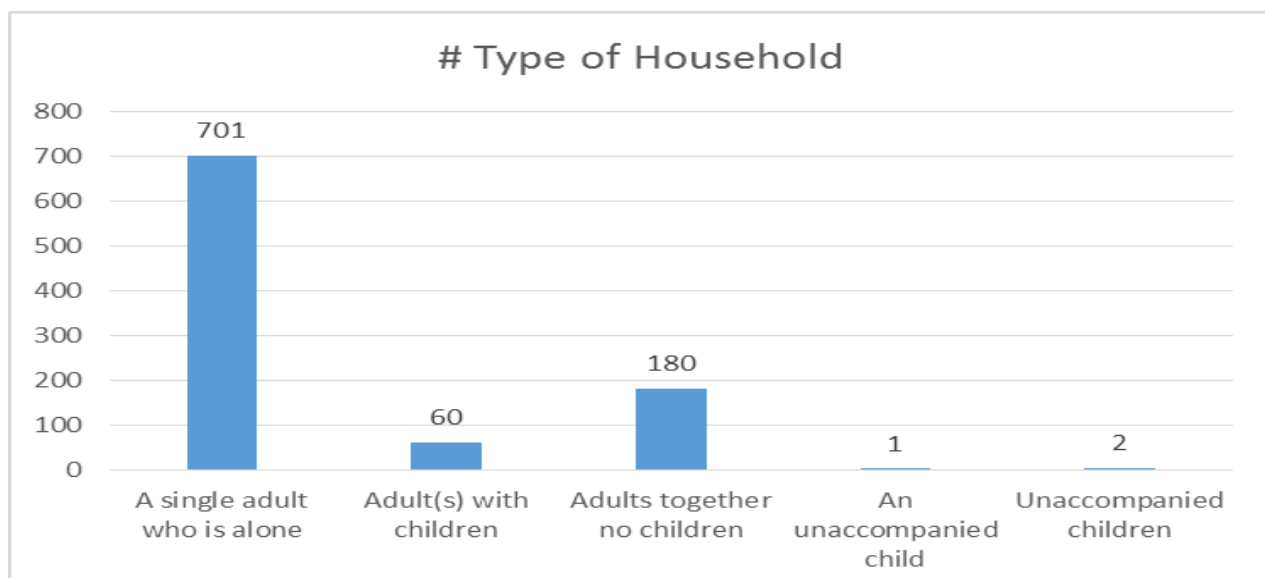
- Of all the programs, 35.71% (40) were emergency or temporary shelter; 11.61% (13) were transitional housing; 32.14% (36) were permanent supportive housing, 8.04% (9) were other permanent housing and 12.50% (14) were rapid re-housing programs.
- Of all the beds (2,659), 34.83% (926) were emergency or temporary shelter beds; 9.63% (256) were transitional housing beds; 16.10% (428) beds designated for rapid re-housing; 34.75% (924) permanent supportive housing beds and 4.70% (125) other types of permanent housing.
- The overall utilization rate of all beds on the night of January 27, 2015 was 96.35%, an increase of 12.29% over the utilization rate of 85.8% in 2013.

Unsheltered Count

Arizona conducted the unsheltered count during the last week in January 2015. Persons were included in the count from all thirteen counties in the continuum. There were coordinators in each county who recruited and coordinated 205 volunteers to conduct the count. Persons who came to locations such as feeding programs were asked if they would participate in a brief survey which provided the data for the count. Persons who participated were offered a small gift such as socks and/or hygiene items for participating. A total of 1,064 surveys were collected statewide of which 944 (89%) were included in the final count. Surveys that were not used in the final unsheltered count included individuals who reported that they had spent the previous night in a shelter, in a friend's home, or in a motel room among others. Only persons who slept in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, on the street, in a riverbed, in the forest or some similar location were counted. The following provides an overview of the surveys collected by county:



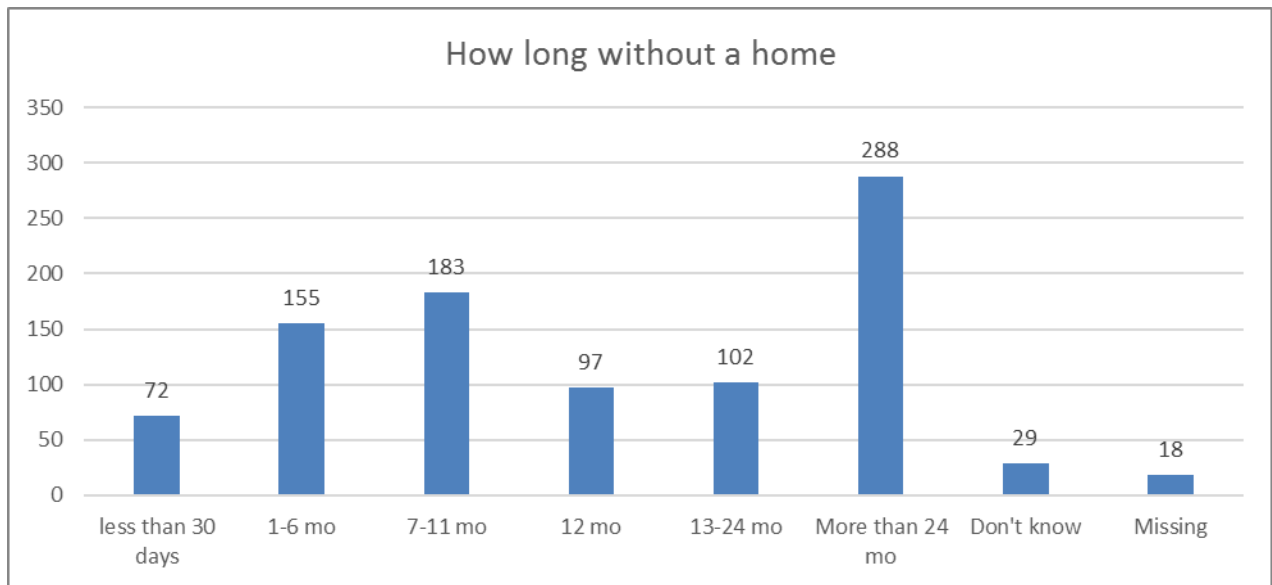
The 944 households included in the survey had a total of 1,305 individuals in those households. The majority of persons were single person households. The following provides an overview by type of household ("unaccompanied children" is defined as children who present as a household):



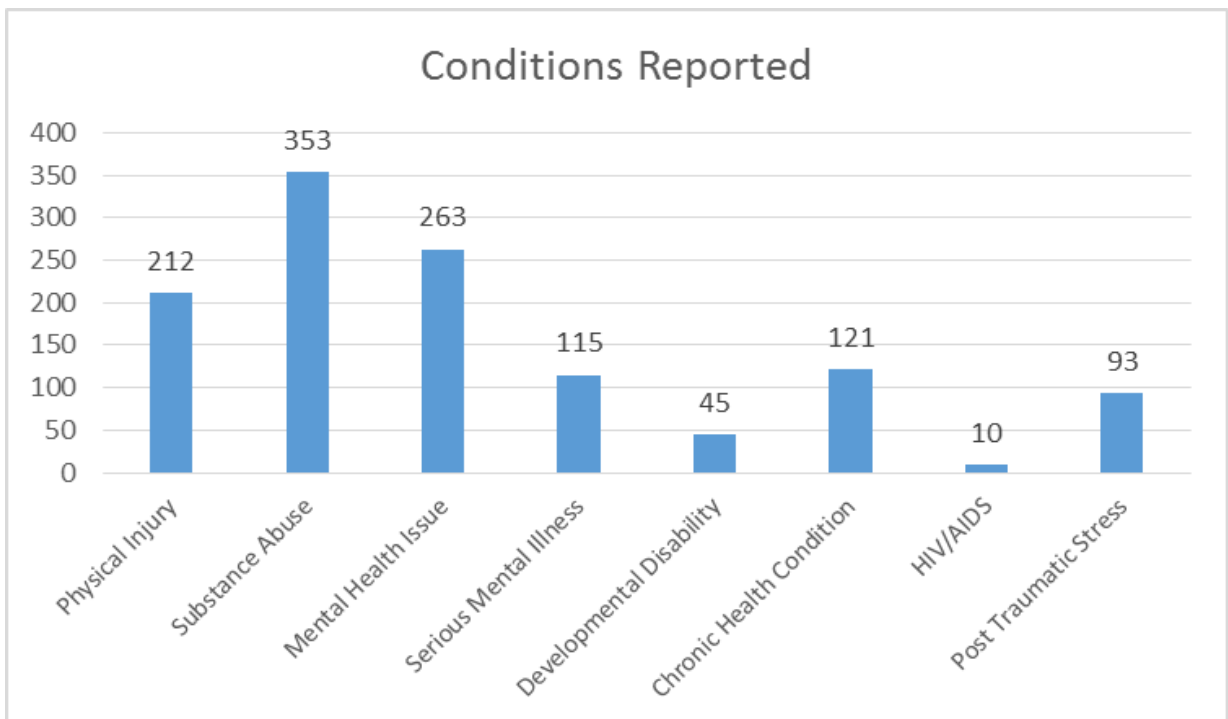
Persons slept in a variety of locations on the night before they participated in the count. The majority of persons were camping out in the forest, mountains or desert, staying in a vehicle or sleeping in an abandoned structure. The following provides a summary of where individuals indicated that they spent the night before the count:



- 78.16% of all persons included in the survey were over 24; 8.35% were between 18 and 24, and 7.13% were under 18. Age was not available for 6.36% of the persons counted.
- The majority of individuals were male (60.15%), with females representing approximately a third of those counted (33.49%). Less than 1% of individuals counted identified as transgender. Gender was not available for 6.28% of individuals in households.
- 17.24% of all individuals in households were Hispanic.
- The majority of persons in households identified as White (70.96%) followed by Native Americans (16.32%). Additionally, 2.99% were African American and 1% were Asian. A total of 4.29% identified as multiple races and information was not available for 4.44% of individuals.
- The majority of persons (30.51%) have experienced homelessness for more than 24 months. The next highest category was those persons who have experienced homelessness between 7 and 11 months (19.39%).



- 41.10% of persons indicated they had served in the armed forces. And additional 2.22% indicated that a member in their household had been part of the armed forces.
- Individuals reported multiple conditions with substance use (29.13%) being the most frequently reported followed by a mental health issue (21.70%). (Individuals were able to report multiple conditions.)



- 17.58% of persons indicated they had been victims of domestic violence.
- Of the 944 households, 406 (43%) reported experiencing homelessness for a year or more or have had four or more episodes of homelessness during the past three years. Individuals also reported one or more disabling conditions. These households included 522 individuals. These households/individuals meet the HUD definition of experiencing chronically homelessness.

Data for the shelter and unsheltered count that took place in 2015 is included in this report and includes both statewide data as well as information for each county. For further information about the Balance of State Continuum of Care, please contact Karia Basta, Special Needs Administrator, Arizona Department of Housing, karia.basta@azhousing.gov.

For further information about this data report, please contact Candee Stanton, Independent Contractor (who supports the BOSCO) at candee.stanton@gmail.com.